

Menomonie Police and Fire Commission  
Minutes for April 22, 2021

Call To Order:

President Sandfort called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. at Fire Station 1. Those in attendance were Jim Ley, Tom Miller, Jan Pierce, and Dorian Speilman. Also present was Police Chief Atkinson and Fire Chief Klass.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of December 8, 2020 were approved. The motion was made by Ley and seconded by Pierce. Motion carried.

Public Comments Related to Agenda Items:

There were none.

Old Business:

There was none.

New Business:

Chief Klass provided an update on staffing, equipment, furniture at the station, and vehicles. Software improvements, radio performance and training equipment were highlighted.

Mutual aid agreements have been renewed with respective Fire/EMS services. Approximately one third of our business is service provided to the rural fire district areas. Agreements have been executed with facilities requesting transport of clients or patients which are not medically necessary. Neighbors of Dunn County, Elmwood Nursing Home, American Lutheran Home, and others were noted.

Update on Boyceville EMS was provided. A number of staff resignations have occurred and with the shortage of staff to cover all call shifts will result in more requests than usual to provide service to the Boyceville area residents.

Chief Klass noted that the internship program is working well and individuals are getting good experience and can be possibly considered for future position openings.

A celebration to honor retired department employees is being planned and Commission members will be notified as to the date and time.

Chief Atkinson provided a staffing update. The increased importance of involving mental health professionals in cases was stressed. Divergence will result in lower confrontation levels and improve outcomes for citizens in need of counseling and interventions that are not from law enforcement.

The computer forensics lab and the One Mind campaign were highlighted. Discussion centered on the City of Menomonie website, Police Department website, and the need for improvement to ease the access to information.

The Chief reviewed the hiring policy, the Wisconsin Governor's proposal on police restraint and use of force, the department's pursuit policy, hate crime and bias complaints. It is the priority of the department to improve risk management and emphasize safety of officers and the public.

Deadly force implications have been discussed with staff. Camera upgrades in vehicles are a welcome improvement. Officer cameras are being implemented soon. Discussion also centered on the storing of data.

Training by the League of Municipalities for Police and Fire Commissioners in the state was noted. Interested Commissioners may contact the Department for further information.

Action taken:

None taken as this meeting was designed to be informational in nature.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 by a motion by Speilman and seconded by Pierce. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be scheduled as needed. President Sandfort will meet as needed with both Chiefs to deal with any staff issues that may arise.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Miller